

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY—Edited by Hamish Watson, T.D., M.D. (Ed.), F.R.C.P. (Ed.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), consultant physician and cardiologist, Dundee Group of Teaching Hospitals, and senior lecturer in clinical cardiology and paediatric cardiology, University of Dundee. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1968. 996 pages, \$36.50.

During the last three years, a number of encyclopedias of pediatric cardiology have been published. Dr. Watson's *Paediatric Cardiology* is the latest of the multiple contributor volumes. The general chapter arrangement of this book is similar to others. A few general chapters precede discussion of specific lesions. The embryology chapter is well illustrated and Rudolph's chapters concerning fetal and pulmonary circulation are amongst the highlights of the book. The electrocardiography chapter is well written and contains many useful charts. This is the only pediatric cardiology textbook to devote a chapter to tropical diseases of the heart. It is surprising that so little attention is accorded to vectorcardiography in a modern textbook. The cardiac catheterization chapter is particularly weak and the radiology chapter neglected discussion of quantitative chamber volumes, an important feature of modern cardiology. The chapters concerning specific lesions are generally acceptable, but lack detailed natural history information. Although Cooley concluded the book with a short chapter concerning operative features of congenital cardiac disease, this would seem inadequate for a subspecialty so closely aligned to cardiac surgery. A cardiac pharmacology chapter would have been a most useful addition.

In final analysis, *Paediatric Cardiology* has some serious deletions, and probably would not be as suitable as other books covering the same area if one were restricted to a single volume dealing with pediatric cardiology. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that it can serve as a reference, particularly if complemented with one or more of the other recent texts.

STANLEY J. GOLDBERG, M.D.

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THE FEAR OF WOMEN — Wolfgang Lederer, M.D. Grune and Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. (10016), 1968. 360 pages, \$12.50.

It is unfortunate that a book of such exquisite brilliance must bear a limited and misleading title. I am afraid that an appeal on the jacket to paperback curiosity will obscure the intent of the author and drive away the very souls who would find appreciation in the heart of the book, which is an epic for any shelf.

More than the title would imply this is a history of the depiction of the female concept. Perhaps one might think of it as "Woman, The Distorted Legend," or "The Feminine Image in Art and Fable."

The colorful and appealing background of Dr. Lederer is displayed on the paper cover by the Park Avenue publisher to lure the browser, but modestly omitted in the

book itself, where it belongs. Born in Vienna, this scholar and soldier is Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco.

The introduction is a nauseating hurdle to get over as quickly as possible. In it Dr. Lederer, to make his point, beats the psychiatric tom-tom by conjuring up a dread of women supposed secretly to pervade the masculine world and lead to all manner of perversions, neuroses, and strange behavior, unto the ultimate destruction of the universe. As a gynecologist I feel somewhat deprived that I cannot revel with him in this moon thing about fellow humans.

The fruit of the endeavor, if the author will pardon the expression, is strewn throughout the main text. He begins with Freudian and post-Freudian voodooism to support the Oedipus cults and to mystify the external genitalia of woman, such as they are.

Freud, you will recall, came into the tabloids and drawing rooms in the 20's with sex as the center of the universe. After a brief play he was considered a Goliath slain by a grain of salt, but in the 60's he is up again for capital gains.

As a gem of Merlinism he is quoted as stating that Medusa's head represents the vulva. And to gild that one, he goes on to make penises of the snake-like hairs of the severed (castrated yet) caput. In my dotage I'm beginning to think that Sigmund was a little meshugge.

And so it follows that the old penis-envy presumption is flaunted again, for all it's worth and more.

A chapter on the Fat Venus is enlightening and interesting, especially in these high caloric times, and displays a worship of female figures in stone and other materials over the thousands of years that have gone. Illustrations are offered showing engaging variations in the generous proportions. The historical record is fascinating, and the restraint shown in interpretation is reassuring.

Maternity and breast feeding are idolized in primitive symbolism. The theme is archaic and boring. A great deal is made of ochre as the "oldest lasting pigment approaching red" and its presence in art. As you may have guessed, it is supposed to signify menstrual blood, and we launch into the same old litany we read in high school, steaming with academic spiritualistic vocabulary. You could smell "tabu" and "unclean" coming up on each succeeding page.

It may be that this book is written in part from the couch. In his chapter "Frau Welt, Or The Perfume of Decay," the text reads:

"I can still vividly recall something else about old women—not their appearance, but their smell. Perhaps it is something about post-menopausal chemistry; more likely it had to do with certain physical neglect once physical charms were past. At any rate, what with modern hygiene and modern perfume, I

have not noticed it lately; when I still noticed it—for the last time, I think, during my medical internship—I could not get away from it fast enough.”

Further notes are made describing the smells of menstruum and of vaginal infections, with appropriate folklore. All chivalry aside, I fail to recognize these fine sommelier distinctions in vintage. Rather, I should pronounce the post-menopausal patient remarkably devoid of intrinsic scent, and find pleasant the hint of the sachet, or the lilac, as a touch of nostalgia near the cave of Nevermore, whence the evil goddess Monilia has long fled in search of flesh more redolent with sugary syrup of glycogen, and of progesterone.

But please forgive the reverie. To read this book does encourage a trance-like state, and in spite of my analysis, it holds together as a compelling and enchanting history of pelvic witchcraft.

A chapter on vaginal teeth, and sundry relics, gives us a serious discussion of another superstition which has formed the basis for occasional barracks room ballads.

Gynecotoxicology is exhibited as well as more direct violence, in the manner of Scylla, Borgia, and poor Lizzie Borden.

Mom-ism is portrayed in a less humorous manner than Huxley's bittersweet warning, but with individual applications rather than social overtone. It is one of Lederer's better chapters beneath the symbolism and recurrent homage to the great god, Freud. Infanticide and mutilation, on to paedophagia, enjoy a hoary chapter designed to coagulate your corpuscles and make you look askance at your next baby-sitter.

Pandora's box comes at you like a telegraphed punch, interpretations galore, not to mention a recently popularized first name. Duck that chapter. For sheer delight go on to the one entitled “Fire Is Not Sated With Word,” in which the hell-hath-no-fury theme is elaborated in a most beguiling style.

Feminine “logic,” household regency, woman as a vessel, a goddess, a monster, a prophetess—all are treated in historical and legendary fabrics, and then brought up into the present with modern applications—for future reference.

Make no mistake, the deeper into this book we travel the more enchanting it becomes. Once having learned to dodge the psychiatry, and all that, it is apparent that this is a volume which will add another facet to the personality of the physician or the lay person, male or female, old or young. James Thurber would have relished this work, and I'll wager Dr. Lederer relishes Thurber.

If a former tank-destroyer company commander, wounded in the service of this slowly fading nation, can produce a work of such magnitude, I wish he'd come out of his psychoanalytic orbit and back to his fellows. We need a few guys like this around today. And buy the book—it's a gem!

GORDON BURR MILLER, M.D.

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CURRENT DIAGNOSIS—2 (2nd Edition)—Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D., and Rex B. Conn, Jr., M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1968. 990 pages, \$21.75.

No doubt this book will be selected by many busy practitioners to complement Conn's *Current Therapy* as a handy desk reference, but all in all, it has little to recommend it over the *Merck Manual* at one-half the price and weight. It is elementary and superficial in many sections; unbalanced, and fails to deliver the “impressive number of diagnostic increments in our capabilities” promised in the preface. A more lengthy treatment is

given to the definition, incidence, etiology, pathology and complications of diseases in many sections than to the details of diagnosis by clinical, laboratory and x-ray methods. The decision to include a separate section with its individual author to aid the reader in the diagnosis of pimples reflects the judgment exercised by the editors to be all-inclusive, rather than incisive and illuminating. The selection of two fellows-in-training and four resident physician authors for this text hardly supports the editors' claim of “leading medical authorities in the United States and abroad” as contributors to this second edition.

Nine pages are devoted to the diagnosis of aerophagia and a single page to multiple sclerosis. The brain scan is described as a valuable method to distinguish a malignancy from infarction, but no details are given in either section on how this distinction is made. We are offered the serum uric acid determination as the best test for gout, then told the diagnosis should be based on clinical findings if the uric acid is normal. Exercise stress testing receives scant attention in the diagnosis of ischemic heart disease, and less than ten lines are devoted to coronary arteriography.

There are some excellent sections, of course. The differential diagnosis of systemic hypertension is presented by Dr. Ray Gifford in a lucid comprehensive manner. The congenital heart defects are very well described. Jesse Steinfeld's description of the diagnosis of leukemias is outstanding. These highlights, however, are not sufficiently abundant to offset the many prosaic descriptions of routine diagnostic tests well known to most practicing physicians. This book therefore cannot be recommended as a significant addition to the standard textbooks of medicine now available.

JOHN A. UDALL, M.D.

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PRACTICAL PSYCHIATRY FOR THE INTERNIST—Douglas Goldman, M.D., Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati; and George A. Ulett, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Missouri Division of Mental Diseases, Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Missouri Institute of Psychiatry, St. Louis. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1968. 168 pages, \$9.85.

Perhaps no contribution to medical literature would be more valuable or more timely than a work that would succinctly and lucidly epitomize and convey the facts and theory of current psychiatric practice to the other specialties of medicine.

It would be a pleasure to say that these aims had been met in this present volume with its engaging and exciting title. But, alas, this, in the opinion of this reviewer, is unhappily not the case. The faults and deficiencies of this book are many. The general impression it gives is one of superficiality and incompleteness, and even in those matters which are more fully discussed there is a spotty and uneven focus. The dynamics and genesis of human behavior are mentioned almost not at all and when they are presented the description manages to be both simplistic and turgid. Almost no attempt is made to even cursorily cover the categories, varieties and types of psychosomatic disorders, and also there is scant representation of the now quite considerable body of knowledge about short-term psychotherapeutic techniques that can be successfully employed by non-psychiatric physicians. The book has one excellent section; namely, the chapter on psychopharmacology, in which the subject is both completely and clearly presented. The rest of the book, however, is largely disappointing.

CHARLES W. WAHL, M.D.